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The Government of Denmark welcomes the report of the UN High-level Panel (HLP) on Digital Cooperation: *The Age of Digital Interdependence*. Please find below the Danish comments regarding Recommendation 5 - Global Digital Cooperation.

**Recommendation 5A.** *We recommend that, as a matter of urgency, the UN Secretary-General facilitate an agile and open consultation process to develop updated mechanisms for global digital cooperation, with the options discussed in Chapter 4 as a starting point. We suggest an initial goal of marking the UN's 75th anniversary in 2020 with a 'Global Commitment for Digital Cooperation' to enshrine shared values, principles, understandings and objectives for an improved global digital cooperation architecture. As part of this process, we understand that the UN Secretary-General may appoint a Technology Envoy.*

Denmark welcomes the panel's strong emphasis on a multistakeholder approach for enhancing global digital cooperation. Denmark actively supports multistakeholder processes and cooperation in Internet Governance, which is critical in addressing the global challenges and opportunities in the digital age. Maintaining the multi-stakeholder governance model and safeguarding the role of the IGF and other key multi-stakeholder fora such as ICANN is crucial.

Denmark strongly supports initiatives to strengthen the IGF, including through ensuring sustainable financing and support of the IGF-secretariat, which is essential in ensuring the long-term stability and effectiveness of the IGF. An IGF trust fund could be explored to this end.

We strongly support the proposal to move the responsibility for the IGF to the office of the UN Secretary General as well as the appointment of a Tech Envoy. These initiatives would underline the importance of the IGF and create stronger links between the UN system and other stakeholders from the private sector, incl. the tech industry, civil society and governments. Moreover, it would anchor technology in the Secretary General's reform agenda. A Tech Envoy could also significantly contribute to a stronger strategic focus on technology in areas such as development cooperation and within the UN system in general. Denmark would be happy to share its own experiences and insights from the mandate and work of the Danish Tech Ambassador.

We support the proposal to mark the UN's 75th anniversary in 2020 with a 'Global Commitment for Digital Cooperation' to enshrine shared values,

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principles and understandings. We find it crucial that any new initiatives do not backtrack on existing results and overlap with existing mechanisms.

Furthermore, Denmark believes there is a need for more inclusive and broader participation in the IGF, including from businesses and governments as well as from the Global South.

We also underline the importance of keeping the IGF as a forum where new issues related to internet governance can be raised and discussed through bottom up processes.

It is paramount to Denmark that the IGF continues to be a non-decision-making forum. At the same time, we believe there is an urgent need for more effective ways of working in order to ensure a strengthened focus and more actionable outcomes, for example by developing best practice guidelines. Moreover, a more coordinated and structured approach to the agenda setting process should be established. This would strengthen the link between the agenda and discussions of the different levels global, regional and local IGFs, and other relevant fora.

Denmark is looking forward to continuing the dialogue, including at the IGF in Berlin, with all stakeholders to develop an effective architecture for global digital cooperation, including a strengthened IGF that is accountable to the global internet community.

**Recommendation 5B.** *We support a multi-stakeholder ‘systems’ approach for cooperation and regulation that is adaptive, agile, inclusive and fit for purpose for the fast-changing digital age.*

Denmark strongly supports this recommendation and the emphasis on multi-stakeholder cooperation throughout the report. Digital collaboration must be based on a balanced and proactive approach to technology. All stakeholders, including industry and governments, have different roles, but must work closer together to ensure that technology becomes a social good that benefits all – and not a zero-sum game. Addressing the challenges and opportunities of the digital age through multistakeholder processes, is crucial if we are going to make digitalization work for all.